

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1627 Session of  
2015

INTRODUCED BY KOTIK, PAYNE, KAVULICH, THOMAS, MILLARD, MATZIE,  
PASHINSKI, NEILSON, DUNBAR, O'BRIEN, MAHONEY, WARNER,  
CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, McNEILL, KORTZ, DAVIS, EVERETT AND  
D. COSTA, OCTOBER 14, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON GAMING OVERSIGHT, OCTOBER 14, 2015

AN ACT

1 Amending Titles 4 (Amusements) and 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of  
2 the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general  
3 provisions, further providing for definitions; in  
4 administration and enforcement, further providing for  
5 athletic event gaming; and, in riot, disorderly conduct and  
6 related offenses, further providing for the offense of pool  
7 selling and bookmaking.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. The definition of "table game" in section 1103 of  
11 Title 4 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended to  
12 read:

13 § 1103. Definitions.

14 The following words and phrases when used in this part shall  
15 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
16 context clearly indicates otherwise:

17 \* \* \*

18 "Table game." Any banking or nonbanking game approved by the  
19 Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board. The term includes roulette,

1 baccarat, blackjack, poker, craps, big six wheel, mini-baccarat,  
2 red dog, pai gow, twenty-one, casino war, acey-ducey, sic bo,  
3 chuck-a-luck, Panguingue, Fan-tan, Asia poker, Boston 5 stud  
4 poker, Caribbean stud poker, Colorado hold'em poker, double  
5 attack blackjack, double cross poker, double down stud poker,  
6 fast action hold'em, flop poker, four card poker, let it ride  
7 poker, mini-craps, mini-dice, pai gow poker, pokette, Spanish  
8 21, Texas hold'em bonus poker, three card poker, two card joker  
9 poker, ultimate Texas hold'em, winner's pot poker and any other  
10 banking or nonbanking game. The term also includes the activity  
11 identified in 18 Pa.C.S. § 5514(b) (relating to pool selling and  
12 bookmaking). The term shall not include:

13 (1) Lottery games of the Pennsylvania State Lottery as  
14 authorized under the act of August 26, 1971 (P.L.351, No.91),  
15 known as the State Lottery Law.

16 (2) Bingo as authorized under the act of July 10, 1981  
17 (P.L.214, No.67), known as the Bingo Law.

18 (3) Pari-mutuel betting on the outcome of thoroughbred  
19 or harness horse racing as authorized under the act of  
20 December 17, 1981 (P.L.435, No.135), known as the Race Horse  
21 Industry Reform Act.

22 (4) Small games of chance as authorized under the act of  
23 December 19, 1988 (P.L.1262, No.156), known as the Local  
24 Option Small Games of Chance Act.

25 (5) Slot machine gaming and progressive slot machine  
26 gaming as defined and authorized under this part.

27 (6) Keno.

28 \* \* \*

29 Section 2. Section 1508 of Title 4 is amended to read:

30 § 1508. Athletic [event gaming] events at licensed facilities.

1 [Nothing in this part shall be construed to permit the  
2 receiving, recording or the registering of bets or wagers or  
3 selling pools which may involve any professional or amateur  
4 athletic event.] Nothing in this part shall be construed to  
5 prohibit staging or conducting athletic events at licensed  
6 facilities.

7 Section 3. Section 5514 of Title 18 is amended to read:

8 § 5514. Pool selling and bookmaking.

9 (a) General rule.--A person is guilty of a misdemeanor of  
10 the first degree if he:

11 (1) engages in pool selling or bookmaking;

12 (2) occupies any place for the purpose of receiving,  
13 recording or registering bets or wagers, or of selling pools;

14 (3) receives, records, registers, forwards, or purports  
15 or pretends to forward, to another, any bet or wager upon the  
16 result of any political nomination, appointment or election,  
17 or upon any contest of any nature;

18 (4) becomes the custodian or depository, for gain or  
19 ward, of any property staked, wagered or pledged, or to be  
20 staked, wagered, or pledged upon any such result; or

21 (5) being the owner, lessee, or occupant of any  
22 premises, knowingly permits or suffers the same, to be used  
23 or occupied for any of such purposes.

24 (b) Construction.--Nothing in this section shall be  
25 construed to prohibit the receiving, recording or registering of  
26 bets or wagers or selling pools involving any professional or  
27 amateur athletic event by a licensed facility as that term is  
28 defined in 4 Pa.C.S. § 1103 (relating to definitions).

29 Section 4. This act shall apply except to the extent  
30 prohibited by 28 U.S.C. Ch. 178 (relating to professional and

1 amateur sports protection) or other Federal law.

2 Section 5. This act shall take effect in 60 days.